

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 063977  
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-15 AF-10 NRC-07 TRSE-00 /115 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:PC  
APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:TAHALSTED  
-----094319 140000Z /75

P 132139Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 063977

USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MARCH 13 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL  
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. KEVIN KLOSE OF WASHINGTON POST, REPORTING FROM MOSCOW, SAID POSSIBLE CESSATION OF FIGHTING IN HORN OF AFRICA "MAY DO LITTLE TO IMPROVE STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND U.S." HE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT "STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS ARE MOVING AT SNAIL'S PACE IN GENEVA AND THERE ARE CLEAR DIVISIONS WITHIN CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS AS TO HOW TO PROCEED. ALTHOUGH SOVIETS HAVE EXPRESSED EAGERNESS TO CONCLUDE NEW SALT ACCORD, THEY HAVE

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STEADFASTLY MAINTAINED THAT IT IS U.S. THAT MUST PROPOSE CHANGES THAT MEET SOVIET AIMS...AGAINST THIS BACKDROP OF STALLED PROGRESS AND SOVIET INTRANSIGENCE, SOME SOURCES HERE NOW BELIEVE IT MAY BE CONSIDERABLE INTERVAL BEFORE RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO SUPERPOWERS IMPROVE. 'ON SCALE OF ONE TO TEN, I'D RATE IT 3.5 RIGHT NOW,' SAID ONE SOURCE."

2. BERNARD WEINRAUB OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED MARCH 11 THAT DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE THAT U.S. MIGHT USE NEUTRON BOMB AS BARGAINING CHIP IN EXCHANGE FOR SOVIET WEAPONS RESTRAINT. "WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH SOVIETS SOME LIMITATIONS ON ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS AS PART OF AN AGREEMENT THAT WOULD PRECLUDE DEPLOYMENT OF SOME SUBSTANTIAL SOVIET WEAPON SYSTEMS," SAID BROWN. "I WOULDN'T WANT TO GO BEYOND THAT." WEINRAUB SAID SERIES OF NATO MEETINGS IN SPRING ARE EXPECTED TO REACH DECISION AS TO WHETHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WANT NEUTRON BOMB ON THEIR TERRITORY.

3. DAVID SHIPLER, WRITING IN MARCH 12 NEW YORK TIMES, SAID SOVIET UNION REJECTED IMPLICITLY BROWN'S SUGGESTION THAT U.S. MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE NEUTRON BOMB AS BARGAINING CHIP. TASS STATEMENT REITERATED READINESS TO AGREE ON SOVIET-AMERICAN BAN ON NEUTRON BOMB, BUT IT SAID ANY ATTEMPT TO LINK NEUTRON BOMB "WITH OTHER QUESTIONS THAT HAVE NO RELATION TO IT" WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. TASS DENOUNCED "SUBTERFUGES OF THIS KIND" THAT IT SAID WERE "CALCULATED FOR NAIVE PEOPLE, BUT CANNOT DECEIVE WORLD PUBLIC." SHIPLER SAID SOVIET NEWS AGENCY DECLARED "TASS IS AUTHORIZED TO STATE THAT SOVIET UNION AGAIN AFFIRMS ITS PROPOSAL AND CALLS ON U.S. FOR MUTUAL DENUNCIATION OF PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WEAPON. SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS READY TO START HOLDING TALKS ON THIS ISSUE ANY TIME AND CONCLUDE

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RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT."

4. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT 21 OF 37 MEMBERS OF HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE SENT LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER LAST FRIDAY OPPOSING HIS DECISION TO LINK SALE OF ADVANCED PLANES TO ISRAEL TO SIMILAR SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT. EARLIER, GWERTZMAN SAID, 12 OF 16 MEMBERS OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAD INDICATED UNHAPPINESS WITH PROJECTED SALE OF 60 ADVANCED F-15 FIGHTERS TO SAUDI ARABIA. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ASSERTED THAT NUMBER OF SIGNERS OF HOUSE LETTER WAS NOT IN ITSELF DECISIVE SINCE DEBATE OVER PROJECTED SALES HAS NOT FORMALLY BEGUN AND MANY OF SIGNERS HAD NOT HAD CHANCE TO HEAR ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION IN DETAIL ON BEHALF OF PACKAGE, GWERTZMAN REPORTED.

5. PETER MASLEY OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED MARCH 12 THAT COMPTROLLER GENERAL ELMER B. STAATS HAS TOLD CARTER ADMINISTRATION THAT IT CANNOT LEGALLY PHASE OUT CONTROVERSIAL CLINCH RIVER BREEDER REACTOR AND THAT ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO APPROVES SPENDING TO TERMINATE PROJECT WILL BE HELD PERSONALLY LIABLE FOR DEBT. STAATS, HEAD OF

GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, WARNED ADMINISTRATION LAST FRIDAY IN HAND-DELIVERED LETTERS OF HIS INTENTIONS "TO DISALLOW EXPENDITURES THAT DO NOT ACCORD WITH OPINIONS" OF GAO THAT ADMINISTRATION HAS NO CHOICE UNDER LAW BUT TO BUILD TWO BILLION DOLLAR TENNESSEED PROJECT. STAATS SAID

PROJECT CAN BE PHASED OUT ONLY IF CONGRESS AMENDS LAW AUTHORIZING IT. CONGRESS REPEATEDLY HAS REJECTED CARTER ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO STOP CONSTRUCTION OF REACTOR.

6. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID CONTINUING SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN HORN OF AFRICA HAS LED ADMINISTRATION "TO GIVE UP INDIAN OCEAN ARMS CONTROL FOR TIME BEING. AND WHILE PAUL WARNKE, DIRECTOR OF ACDA, LED DELEGATION TO UNCLASSIFIED

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7. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTED MONDAY THAT GROUP OF 30 LEADING SOVIET SCIENTISTS AND ACADEMICIANS JOINTLY WROTE CARTER URGING THAT U.S. AND USSR MUTUALLY RENOUNCE PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON BOMB. "TEXT OF LETTER, DELIVERED TO WHITE HOUSE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO UPI THROUGH SOVIET SOURCES IN WASHINGTON," NEWS AGENCY REPORTED. LETTER SAID "NEUTRON BOMB IS NOT DEFENSIVE WEAPON HELPING TO DETER AN AGGRESSION. EVEN NOW SOME IRRESPONSIBLE PERSONS TRY TO USE COMBAT CHARACTERISTICS OF NEUTRON BOMB FOR SUBSTANTIATING ACCEPTABILITY OF LIMITED NUCLEAR WAR. SUCH PHILOSOPHY IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS FOR CAUSE OF PEACE." LETTER SAID IF U.S. DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON BOMB, "ITS MONOPOLY TO THIS WEAPON WILL BE VERY SHORTLIVED." VANCE

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ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 /007 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPM:DJMCConnell  
APPROVED BY:EUR/RPM:WSHINN JR  
-----007153 161451Z /14  
R 161255Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 063977

USUN NEW YORK FOR AMBASSADOR LEONARD

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 063977 ACTION GENEVA INFO MBFR VIENNA  
LONDON MOSCOW MARCH 13.

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 063977

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Office:** ORIGIN ACDA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PARM, SOPN, SZ, US, XW, (KLOSE, KEVIN)  
**To:** GENEVA USSALTTWO MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ea3e74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014